The University Of Sheffield.

Department Of Infection, Immunity & Cardiovascular Disease.

Faculty of Medicine Dentistry & Health
Professor Dame Pamela J Shaw - *Pro-Vice-Chancellor*

Academic Unit of Radiology
Department of Infection, Immunity & Cardiovascular Disease (IICD)
Magnetic Resonance Imaging Unit
Floor C, Royal Hallamshire Hospital
Glossop Road
Sheffield S10 2JF
Telephone: +44 (0)114 2159595
Fax: +44 (0) 114 271 1714

APF Trustees
Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis

info@actionpulmonaryfibrosis.org

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Dear Trustees of Action Pulmonary Fibrosis,

Many thanks for supporting my dissemination of research findings, regarding the assessment of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). The European Respiratory Society travel grant covered flights, entrance to the congress and part of the accommodation for the event and I am grateful for the generosity of the APF trustees.

I was pleased to present work regarding how magnetic resonance spectroscopy can be used to measure gas exchange in the lungs of people with IPF. In a longitudinal study, we were able to demonstrate a change in MRI metrics over six months, which was not observable by conventional means of gas exchange measurement.

The talk was well received and the chairs led the discussion around future potential applications of the work, including the potential for this technique for use as a sensitive marker of disease in early intervention trials. I engaged in useful discussions during the session, including generating ideas around other work that may support our findings, including the analysis of perfusion imaging in people with IPF and investigation of postural effects on gas exchange efficiency in the lung.

The congress has allowed me to better understand how we may be able to make a contribution to the field of pulmonary fibrosis by investigating sensitive imaging markers of disease. I was also able to meet respected researchers in the field. There were a number of interesting scientific sessions, including information on a potential new therapeutic agent for IPF (pamrevlumab) and the longer-term effects of antifibrotic agents (INPULSIS-ON data). In addition to this, I was able to liaise with other research groups performing hyperpolarised gas imaging and discuss differences in our techniques.

This experience will also allow me to provide a more informed view to our local research participants as to how their involvement in research has developed our understanding of gas transfer in IPF. I will adopt this into a presentation and provide an overview to our local IPF support group in November.

However much one reads about conditions and research and disseminates new findings through publication, there is no substitute for experiencing a large congress of 25,000 engaged respiratory scientists and I'd like to thank APF for the opportunity to experience the congress and disseminate research which I hope will contribute to our understanding of pulmonary fibrosis. I have enclosed a photograph as requested!

Yours faithfully,

Dr Nick Weatherley